



RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO WORK WITH WASTE DISPOSAL OPERATORS TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO MAKE UNANNOUNCED VISITS AND INSPECTIONS OF CITY OWNED WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, Oahu generates more than 1.5 million tons of waste annually from residential, commercial, and industrial sources; and

WHEREAS, most residential and general commercial trash is disposed of at H-Power, the City's waste-to-energy plant in Campbell Industrial Park; and

WHEREAS, the H-Power Plant, which is owned by the City and operated by Covanta Honolulu, processes and turns up to 2,160 tons of solid waste per day into electricity to power more than 40,000 homes; and

WHEREAS, noncombustible construction and demolition debris and industry waste goes to landfill; and

WHEREAS, the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill is Oahu's only municipal solid waste landfill which is operated by Waste Management of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health ("DOH") has cited and fined the City and the operator of the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill on numerous occasions for not complying with DOH permits; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency also asked the City and Waste Management of Hawaii last year to address stormwater violations at the Waimanalo landfill which occurred in December 2010 and January 2011 when rain caused flooding in the landfill and waste to be released which resulted in contamination and beach closures; and

WHEREAS, environmental harms, violations, and fines could be significantly minimized if the public were able to assist in periodic and unannounced inspections of City owned waste disposal facilities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City Administration is urged to work with waste disposal operators to allow the public to make unannounced visits and inspections of City owned waste disposal facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration is requested to provide expanded access that will allow the public to make unannounced visits and inspections



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at waste disposal facilities during regular business hours and to allow the use of video and recording devices at such visits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration consider limiting liability by requiring persons requesting access to a waste disposal facility to first check in with personnel and sign an indemnification agreement before being allowed to enter the waste disposal facility; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, Managing Director, the Director of the Department of Environmental Services, the State Director of the Department of Health, Waste Management of Hawaii, and Covanta Honolulu.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tom Beem

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

MAR 29 2012

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers